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*London Fires in 1852.**

"The statistics of London fires are by no means devoid of interest, and the time may come when they will form an index to the social advancement of the people; for in proportion as houses are built more and more fireproof, and habits of carefulness become more and more diffused, the number of destructive fires will assuredly lessen."—*Knight's London.*

THE total number of fires reported is 923, being 5 less than in the preceding year. Of these fires, 250 were extinguished by the inmates, without external aid; 377 were extinguished by the inmates, with casual assistance; while the extinction of 296 devolved upon the firemen. Parish engineers either wholly extinguished or materially assisted in the extinguishing of 59 fires. The total number of calls given at the fire-engine stations was 1,105—a decrease of 54 upon last year's number. In 25 instances the premises were totally destroyed; in 238, considerably damaged; while in 660 cases the damage was very trifling.

The following table shows the monthly distribution, which in 1852 was unusually irregular:—

Months.	Number of Fires.	Fatal Fires.	Number of lives lost.	Chimneys on fire.	False Alarms.
January	89	4	4	14	9
February	82	0	0	11	14
March	100	2	2	11	7
April	79	1	1	12	12
May	93	1	1	6	3
June	58	2	2	8	7
July	93	5	6	7	10
August	72	3	3	3	4
September	65	3	5	2	7
October	57	2	3	3	7
November	69	1	1	5	5
December	66	3	3	7	8
TOTAL	923	27	31	89	93

Instances in which insurances were known to have been effected upon the				
building and contents	..	..	..	442
Upon the building only	..	..	..	124
Upon the contents only	..	..	..	74
No insurance	..	..	..	283
				923
Alarms from chimneys on fire	..	..	..	89
False alarms	..	..	..	93
Making the total number of calls				1,105

* From the Report in the *Mechanics' Magazine*, March 5th, 12th, and 19th, 1853, by Mr. William Baddeley, C.E., Inventor of the Portable Canvas Cisterns, Improved Jet-spreaders, Farmer's Fire-engine, Every Man his own Fireman, &c. &c.

The number of fatal fires again exhibits an increase on those of the previous year, as does also the number of lives lost. The fatal fires may be classed as follows:—

	Fires.	Lives lost.
Personal accidents from the ignition of wearing apparel	14	— 14
" " intoxication	4	— 4
" " explosion of fireworks	1	— 2
" " " steam-boiler	1	— 1
" " " fire-annihilator composition	1	— 1
Firemen killed by falling walls	1	— 2
*Inability to escape from burning building, or killed in attempting to do so	5	— 7
	<u>27</u>	<u>31</u>

Of the personal accidents, some were of a peculiar character. The first of this description happened on the 16th January, in Wardour Street, when a Mr. Calder met his death from the ignition of naphtha spirit, with which one of Holliday's lamps was being replenished. When the lamp was three parts filled, the spirit suddenly took fire, and, igniting Mr. Calder's clothes, burned him so severely that he expired, five days afterwards, in the Middlesex Hospital. At the very time this catastrophe occurred, an inquiry was pending before Mr. Wakley, the coroner, upon a young man who had been killed at Highgate by the explosion of another of Holliday's lamps, while in the act of being refilled. At this inquest Mr. Holliday contended that neither the spirit nor its vapour possessed any explosive property; but that question being referred to Dr. Scoffern on behalf of the friends of the deceased, and to Professor Miller on behalf of Mr. Holliday, those gentlemen found by experiment that the vapour was not of itself explosive, but that, when mixed with atmospheric air in certain proportions, it became highly explosive and dangerous.

Another unfortunate and fatal accident occurred on the 29th July, at Wapping Wall, where a female was burnt to death while preparing an embrocation containing, among other ingredients, spirits of turpentine, which boiled over, and, filling the apartment with flame, caused the death of the manipulator. Melting beeswax cost another female her life.

The manufacture of fireworks has this year, as in the preceding, caused the death of two of the parties so engaged. This catastrophe took place on Sunday, October 3rd, in Rose and Crown Court, Moorfields, upon the premises of Mr. Holyhead. A terrific explosion took place in the evening, and two boys were so dreadfully burned that they died in the hospital on the following day.

* Four of these cases were not within the limits of the Fire-escape Society.

At the coroner's inquest a verdict of manslaughter against Mr. Holyhead was returned, and he was tried thereon at the Old Bailey sessions. His counsel contended that there was no evidence to show that the prisoner had been guilty of wilful neglect, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

The deaths from inability to escape from burning buildings present many of the usual, and some of them unusually, distressing characteristics. The first of these took place on Thursday, January 29, in Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, when a sheriff's officer named Webster, who had been put in possession of the premises on the previous evening, lost his life. The inmates of the house effected their escape through a trap-door in the roof; but the deceased, being unacquainted with the premises, or being overpowered by the smoke, did not follow them as they expected, and his lifeless body was found in his bed-room, after the extinction of the fire. The origin of the fire was most suspicious; Mr. Werndly, the occupier of the premises, having effected a large insurance upon his furniture, of which he had employed an appraiser to take an inventory only three days before the fire. At the inquest upon the unfortunate deceased, twelve out of thirteen jurymen were unanimously of opinion "That the deceased was burnt to death, but how the fire occurred there was not sufficient evidence to enable them to decide."

The next fatal fire of this class broke out at half-past three o'clock on the morning of Friday, April 2nd, in Moor Street, Soho, on the premises of Mr. Oakey. Before discovered, the fire had made such extensive progress as to cut off all possibility of escape by the staircase, and a neighbour, perceiving the danger of the inmates, ran to Golden Square for the fire-escape of St. James's parish; his application was, however, met by a positive refusal, the conductor coolly telling the applicant (Mr. Day) that, Moor Street being out of his district, he could not possibly render any assistance. A similar application from a policeman met with a like refusal! The consequence was, that seven persons, including two young children, were precipitated into the street, three of them from a third-floor window, all of whom were more or less hurt—one of them, a foreigner, so seriously, that he died of the injuries received.

On Sunday, September 12, a lamentable fire occurred in Middlesex Street, Somers Town, at the house of Mr. White, linen-draper. Shortly before two o'clock in the afternoon the servant girl went into the shop with a lighted candle, when a large body of gas took fire, and instantly filled the shop with flames, which

rapidly ignited its highly combustible contents. A person named Balham, with his wife and four children, who lodged on the second-floor, were unable to descend the staircase; these parties, with the exception of one boy, $3\frac{1}{2}$ years old, effected their escape with great difficulty from the windows. This poor little fellow was overlooked in the confusion, and after the extinction of the fire was found dreadfully burnt in the ruins.

Sunday, September 19th, Rotherhithe was the scene of a sad calamity. Shortly before one o'clock, a.m., the firemen on board of the floating engine heard cries of "fire" and "save us," and instantly raised an alarm. A police constable arrived soon after, and found the premises of Mr. Hogg, ironmonger and ship-chandler, on fire, and heard some women screaming most piteously, apparently in the shop; thinking to rescue them, he broke open the door. While this was going on, a niece of Mr. Hogg leaped from the first-floor window, with her face and hands much burnt. Mr. Hogg next precipitated himself from the second-floor window into a counterpane held for his reception; but his weight split it in two and he fell heavily on the stones, receiving such severe injuries that he afterwards expired in Guy's Hospital. The only other inmates, a female relative and the servant girl, were never seen until their disfigured remains were dug out of the ruins after the fire was extinguished.

From this painful subject, however, turn we to one of a more gratifying description. The year just ended has to the *Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire* been one of great and important usefulness; during that period the fire-escape conductors have been in attendance at 254 fires, and have accomplished the rescue of 50 lives, viz. :—

	Lives saved.
March 9, No. 40, Goswell Street	9
April 11, „ 120, Whitecross Street	2
„ 13, „ 15, Nassau Street, Middlesex Hospital	5
May 9, „ 2, Hoxton Square	3
„ 14, „ 34, Featherstone Street	5
June 15, „ 21, Nassau Street	4
„ 25, „ 152, Upper Whitecross Street	3
Aug. 27, „ 33, Whitechapel Road	3
Sept. 16, „ 16, Oxford Street	2
„ 20, „ 57, Backchurch Lane, Whitechapel	4
Oct. 18, „ 4, Sherborne Lane, Lombard Street	5
„ 29, „ 29, Webber Street, Blackfriars Road	2
Nov. 11, „ 5, Lant Street, Borough	3
	50

At almost all these fires, the very prompt attendance of the fire-escape, and the skilful and efficient exertions of its conductors, were

the theme of universal approbation. In addition to the 50 human lives thus providentially saved, much valuable assistance has upon many occasions been rendered by the escape-men. Thus, for instance, at the serious conflagration which destroyed the extensive premises, stock, and plant of Mr. Grimsdell, builder, in Bell Lane, Spitalfields, on the evening of Sunday, October 3. In a very short time after the alarm of fire was given, two of the Royal Society's fire-escapes were in attendance. At that time the fire was raging in a large pile of timber in close contiguity to the stable, the door of which was on fire, and within were eleven fine horses. Conductor Wood (Whitechapel station) perceiving the imminent peril of these animals, immediately went round to the back of the premises, and, forcing out a window with his crowbar, set to work most vigorously to make an opening sufficiently large for the horses to come out of. With the assistance of Sergeant Price, of the metropolitan police, he succeeded in making an opening, through which all the horses and harness were rescued amid the cheers of the bystanders. The only matter of regret is, that neither the humanity thus displayed, the extraordinary exertions made, nor the value of the property saved from destruction, ever obtained from Mr. Grimsdell or the insurers (the Lancashire Fire Office) the smallest mark of gratitude for the services rendered upon this occasion by the fire-escape conductor and the police constable.

During the past year six new stations have been provided with fire-escapes, viz.:—The New Road, corner of Albany Street; Camden Town, in front of the Southampton Arms; Oxford Street, corner of Dean Street (this station was enabled, soon after the fatal fire in Wood Street, to provide for the safety of the inhabitants of that neighbourhood); Oxford Street, corner of Connaught Place; Westminster, Broad Sanctuary; ditto, Horseferry Road: making the present number of stations 38.

Other stations have been decided upon, and only wait the completion of local arrangements for their adequate support. As the want of such aids becomes felt in various districts, and the inhabitants are willing to provide sufficient funds, the Royal Society are prepared to go on extending the sphere of their usefulness until the whole of this vast metropolis is protected by a continuous chain of fire-escapes, at intervals of half a mile, each attended nightly by a properly appointed conductor, skilled in the use of his machine, and prepared to render all needful assistance in case of fire.

The following is an analysis, in a tabular form, of the fires which occurred in London last year, exhibiting in each instance the occupancy of the part of the premises in which the fire originated, and the comparative liability to accident by fire of various trades, manufactories, and private dwellings:—

Occupation.	Totally Destroyed.	Seriously Damaged.	Slightly Damaged.	Total.
Apothecaries, and dealers in drugs (no } laboratories) }	1	..	5	6
Bakers	1	5	7	13
—, biscuit	..	..	1	1
—, muffin	..	..	1	1
—, pie	..	1	2	3
Barge and boat builders	..	..	1	1
Basket-makers	..	1	..	1
Beer-shops	..	1	4	5
Blacking-makers	..	..	1	1
Bleachers	..	1	..	1
Booksellers, bookbinders, and stationers . .	2	8	8	18
Bottle-merchants	..	..	1	1
Brewers	..	1	..	1
Brokers and dealers in old clothes	..	1	8	9
Builders	1	5	3	9
Cabinet-makers	1	7	7	15
Cane-dyers	..	1	..	1
Carpenters and workers in wood (not } cabinet-makers) }	1	22	33	56
Caoutchouc-manufacturer	..	..	1	1
Cement-works	..	1	..	1
Chandlers	..	7	8	15
Charcoal and coke, dealers in	..	1	1	2
Cheesemongers	..	4	3	7
Chemists (including laboratories)	..	..	2	2
Churches	..	..	2	2
Chicory and coffee roasters	..	..	2	2
Coach-makers	..	..	1	1
Coffee-shops and chop-houses	1	5	12	18
Colour-makers	..	1	..	1
Confectioners and pastrycooks	..	2	1	3
Coopers	1	..	1	2
Corkcutters	..	..	1	1
Corn-chandlers	..	2	..	2
Cotton wool (dealers in)	..	1	..	1
Curriers and leather-dressers	..	1	1	2
Distillers, illicit	..	..	1	1
—, tar	1	1	..	2
—, turpentine	..	1	..	1
Drapers, woollen, linen, and mercers . . .	..	15	23	38
Druggists, wholesale	..	1	4	5
Drysalts	..	1	..	1
Eating-houses	..	3	11	14
Engineers, mechanical	1	1	1	3
Farming stock	1	5	2	8
Fire-annihilator maker	1	..	..	1
Firework-makers	..	2	..	2

Occupation.	Totally Destroyed,	Seriously Damaged.	Slightly Damaged.	Total.
Founders	..	..	4	4
Furriers and skin-dyers	..	..	1	1
Gas-works	..	2	2	4
Glue-makers	..	1	..	1
Grocers	..	2	5	7
Hat-makers	..	1	..	1
Hemp-dressers	..	1	3	4
Horsehair-merchants	..	..	2	2
Hotels and club-houses	..	..	2	2
Japanners	..	2	1	3
Lampblack-makers	..	1	1	2
Laundresses	..	..	3	3
Lucifer-match makers	..	2	3	5
Manchester warehouses	..	3	3	6
Marine stores, dealers in	..	2	5	7
Mats, dealers in	..	..	1	1
Milliners and dressmakers	..	2	7	9
Musical instrument makers	..	..	2	2
Oil-mills	1	..	..	1
Oil and colourmen (not makers)	..	4	9	13
Painted baize makers	..	2	..	2
Painters, plumbers, and glaziers	..	2	1	3
Paper-makers	1	1	..	2
—stainers	1	1	1	3
Pasteboard-makers	..	1	..	1
Pawnbrokers	..	..	1	1
Pipe-makers	..	..	1	1
Printers, letter-press	..	3	2	5
—, copper-plate	..	1	..	1
Private dwellings	1	33	303	337
Public buildings	..	..	1	1
Rag-merchants	..	..	4	4
Railways	..	..	3	3
Rope-makers	1	2	..	3
Sale shops and offices	1	11	25	37
Saw-mills, steam	1	3	3	7
School of industry	..	..	1	1
Scum-boilers	..	..	1	1
Ships	..	..	5	5
—, steam	..	1	..	1
Ship-builders	..	2	..	2
—chandlers	1	..	..	1
Silk-dresser	..	..	1	1
Soot-merchant	..	..	1	1
Stables	..	3	13	16
Straw-bonnet makers	..	2	..	2
Sugar-refiners	..	1	1	2
Tailors	..	5	9	14
Tallow-chandlers, melters, wax-chand- lers, and soap-boilers }	..	1	3	4
Tanners	..	..	1	1
Tarpaulin-makers	..	1	1	2
Tinmen, braziers, and smiths	..	3	4	7
Tobacconists	..	2	5	7
Toy-warehouses	..	..	3	3
Under repair and building	2	4	7	13
Unoccupied	..	1	5	6
Upholsterers	..	1	..	1

Occupation.	Totally Destroyed.	Seriously Damaged.	Slightly Damaged.	Total.
Varnish-makers	..	1	2	3
Victuallers	2	13	25	40
Warehouses	..	3	3	6
Weavers	..	1	1	2
_____, mat	..	..	3	3
Wharfingers	..	..	1	1
Wine and spirit merchants.....	..	..	4	4
Wood-merchants	..	1	1	2
Total.....	25	238	660	923

The daily distribution of last year's fires was as follows :—

Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Sunday.
144	137	133	127	129	117	136

Their distribution through the hours of day and night has been in the following proportion :

	First hour.	Second Hour.	Third hour.	Fourth hour.	Fifth hour.	Sixth hour.	Seventh hour.	Eighth hour.	Ninth hour.	Tenth hour.	Eleventh hour.	Twelfth hour.
A.M.	61	59	40	33	19	20	17	14	23	25	20	26
P.M.	32	18	28	27	25	50	51	57	80	82	67	49

The causes of fire, so far as could be satisfactorily ascertained, may be stated as follows :—

Accidents, unforeseen, and for the } most part unavoidable	15	Children playing with gunpowder ..	1
Apparel, ignited on the person	9	_____ lucifers	4
Bleaching hops	1	Cinders put away unextinguished ..	19
_____ nuts	1	Coppers overheated	2
Candles, various accidents with	131	Fire sparks	69
_____ ignited bed-curtains	73	_____ kindled on hearths and other }	7
_____ window-curtains	49	improper places	
Carelessness, palpable instances of ..	17	Fire-arms, discharging	2
Charcoal fires	1	Fireworks, making	4
Chicory-roasting	1	_____, letting off	6
Children playing with candles	1	Friction	1
_____ fire	6	Flues, foul and ignited	34
		_____, defective or overheated	37

Flues, blocked up	10	Spontaneous ignition of lampblack ..	3
— of hot plate	3	— phosphorus ..	2
Fumigation, incautious	2	— rags, wet	4
Furnaces	16	—, greasy ..	1
Gas, escape of, from defective fittings	55	— tan	1
— street mains ..	2	Smoking in bed	1
—, lighting of	6	Stills, illicit	1
— burning too high	9	Spirits, drawing off	1
—, explosion at works	2	Steam-boilers, heat from	3
Hearths, defective	2	—, explosion of	1
Intoxication	9	Stoves, improperly set, defective, }	17
Lamps, oil	2	and overheated	
—, naphtha	3	—, drying	10
Lime, slaking of	7	—, ironing	2
Linen, drying or airing before fire ..	39	—, muffin	1
Lucifer-matches, making	3	—, pipe	9
— accidentally ignited ..	8	—, portable	2
— accidentally ignited }	1	—, gas	2
by a cat		Suspicious	9
— accidentally ignited }	2	Tobacco unextinguished	25
by sun's heat		Varnish and oils, &c., boiling of ..	7
—, using	13	Wilful	15
Naphtha, explosion of	1		865
—, bottle of, broken	1	Unknown	58
Ovens, defective and overheated ..	7		
Pitch and tar, boiling of	4		
Shavings, loose, ignited	49		
Spontaneous ignition of dung	1		
		Total	923

The causes of fire during the past year, it will be seen, do not present any remarkable feature of novelty. The discharge of fire-arms has caused two fires, but neither of them were very serious in their consequences. One of these accidents happened in Highbury Grove, Islington, shortly before eleven o'clock in the evening of 5th July. About an hour previous, one of the inhabitants, thinking an attempt was being made to enter his premises for the purpose of robbery, discharged a gun, as a caution to the intruders. The wadding, falling among a quantity of shavings in an unfinished building, set fire thereto, and threatened to destroy it; by the prompt and active exertions of the police and neighbours, however, the fire was soon extinguished.

Soon after two o'clock in the morning of January 26, a fire occasioned by a cat did considerable damage to the premises of Mr. Bryan, grocer, &c., in Queen's Place, Holloway. It appeared that pussy, in her nightly perambulations, came upon the stock of lucifer-matches, which by her awkward mode of handling she contrived to ignite; the inflammable contents of the shop were soon in a blaze, and the premises seemed doomed to destruction. The prompt arrival and judicious application of the Holloway fire-engine, however, confined the damage to the shop and parlour—in the latter of which was found the dead body of the feline incendiary, pussy having died of suffocation.

A fire caused by *rain* is about the last thing that would be supposed capable of producing such a calamity; several of last year's fires were, however, so occasioned. The rain, slaking of lime, produced so much heat as to ignite combustible matters in contact therewith.

A singular fire broke out in Lincoln's Inn Fields on Wednesday evening, August 4. A large waggon belonging to Messrs. Young-husband and Co., railway-carriers, laden with hemp, was being driven through the square, when all at once a body of flame burst forth from the hemp; the horses being detached, the waggon was upset and the burning mass thrown into the road. The brigade-engine from Holborn, with a body of firemen, had to be called in to extinguish the fire, the origin of which could not be very well accounted for. Spontaneous combustion or unextinguished tobacco is supposed to have been the cause.

The necessity of more attention being given to the regular cleaning of chimneys is shown by the fact, that in no less than 34 instances chimneys on fire proved serious matters. "Oh, it's only a chimney on fire—there's no danger," is an every-day remark. On the 20th of April last, the firemen were called to a fire at No. 10, Dorset Street, Marylebone. The inmates observed "there's no danger," and refused admittance to the firemen. In one hour after the mistake was made manifest, and the firemen's aid earnestly solicited. The fire had communicated to the joists and rafters, several of which were burned, the ceilings in back and front rooms pulled down, and the contents much injured.

Total Losses.—Upon 25 occasions the premises in which the fire originated were totally destroyed, the number of buildings destroyed being 31. This result is attributable in 19 cases to the fire having obtained a great head before it was discovered. In 9 cases the fires were so far distant from the nearest engine-station as to preclude the possibility of timely aid. The total destruction of Mr. Hogg's premises (September 19) was occasioned by breaking open the street-door to try to save the inmates. Four total losses were owing to late and scanty supplies of water.

An important trial, as regards Water Companies, took place recently at Bristol. The premises of a cabinet-maker named Laverton, carrying on an extensive business in Redcross Street, were discovered to be on fire at two o'clock in the morning of September 2nd. The firemen promptly attended with their engines, but no water could be obtained from the mains for upwards of

two hours, and the sufferer brought an action against the British Waterworks Company for the amount of his loss. Mr. Baron Platt observed, that "there was a stipulation in the Act of Parliament that the Company should give protection to the public, and, in case of fire, water was to be ready to extinguish it. It was part of their bargain that they should afford that benefit to the public, as part of the service for which they were paid and the monopoly given them. It was the duty of the Company to keep their mains full, and it was a serious dereliction of their duty to have neglected it." The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount of his loss, £531. 18s. 7d.!

The remaining total loss was the destruction of the manufactory and stores of Phillips's Patent Fire-Annihilator Company, in Battersea Fields, on Sunday, October 31st, which was attended with loss of life. About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, a large quantity of composition, which was drying in the oven or drying-stove, ignited with a loud explosion, and immediately fired the premises. The wife of the watchman, the only person at that time on the premises, appears to have been either killed by the explosion, or suffocated by the noisome vapour with which the place was instantly filled. After the fire had been extinguished, the poor woman was dug out of the ruins, sadly mutilated.

Considerably damaged.—At no less than 208 fires considerable damage was sustained, and in this class are to be found some of the heaviest fires of the year: in 19 instances the premises were "all but destroyed."

Death of Two Firemen.—Shortly before seven o'clock in the evening of Thursday, July 15th, a most disastrous conflagration broke out in the premises of Messrs. Conbro and Potter, ship-chandlers, No. 2, Haydon Square, Minories. Fire-engines from the various stations rapidly arrived, and were placed in the most commanding positions; that from the Whitecross Street station was taken into Swan Street, in the rear of the burning premises, to protect the houses on that side. John Crampton, senior fireman, was holding the branch pipe, and Alfred Wilson, engineer, was standing by his side giving directions, when one of the lofty walls suddenly fell outwards, burying both the unfortunate men in a mass of bricks, &c. The greatest exertions were immediately made to extricate the sufferers. Crampton was first got out, dreadfully crushed and quite dead. Soon after the bleeding body of Wilson was dug out; and, life not being extinct, he was taken

to the London Hospital, where he almost immediately expired. At an inquest held upon the following day, the jury returned a verdict "that the two deceased lost their lives, casually and by misfortune, through assisting in extinguishing a fire in Haydon Square, but how the said fire occurred there is no evidence to prove." On the following Monday, the remains of Crampton and Wilson were buried at St. Luke's, with all the tokens of respect which a sense of their worth, and regret for their untimely and melancholy death, could suggest. In addition to a numerous attendance of mourning relatives, the followers included Mr. Braidwood, the superintendent; Messrs. Fogo, Colf, Staples, and Henderson, the district foreman, and as many of the firemen as could be safely withdrawn from other duties; a body of fire-escape conductors, and a large number of the City and Metropolitan Police from the G and H divisions: the attendance of the greater portion of those parties being for the most part voluntary. In his Official Report to the Committee of the London Fire-Engine Establishment, Mr. Braidwood says: "Wilson and Crampton were two of the best firemen of their standing in their establishment." They each left a widow and four children. The committee have kindly allowed Mrs. Wilson 16s. and Mrs. Crampton 13s. per week.

The Floating Fire-Engine, as intimated in my last, has been fitted with steam power for working the pump, so that no future inconvenience will arise from a deficiency of manual labour. Propulsion by the jet has been attempted, without any better success than I predicted; and in consequence of its increased draught of water, much difficulty will always be experienced in conveying this powerful agent to distant fires. Mr. Braidwood reports that this engine is now double the power it formerly was. The arrangement of the steam-engines and mode of working the pumps is exceedingly good, and is capable of discharging an immense quantity of water; but from malformation of the water-passages, and from other causes, the character of the jets is sadly defective, and the height at which they are delivered by no means equal to what might be expected from the power employed.
